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Epidemiologic study of airborne manganese exposure and health effects in Ohio adults

Since 2009 the USEPA RARE Program has funded study of exposure to and health effects of airborne manganese in Ohio adults. Following nearly a decade of community interest and concern, residents of Marietta, Mt. Vernon and East Liverpool Ohio have been studied via neurological and neuropsychological tests, questionnaires and biological sampling. Results from Marietta (near a large industrial airborne Mn source) and Mt. Vernon (no large industrial airborne Mn source) were published in 2011 and 2012 in the professional literature. In 2013 USEPA extended this work through a contract with San Francisco State University (Rosemarie Bowler, principal investigator) to compare and combine Marietta and Mt. Vernon results with those from East Liverpool where another large airborne Mn source is located. USEPA ORD, R5 and Ohio state agencies are coordinating preparation of the initial combined results from all three Ohio towns for presentation at an April 18, 2013 East Liverpool public meeting.